(d) Steps taken by the Government to check infiltration and fight terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and its engagement with the international community in this regard, will continue to be in place till there is a permanent cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

Assistance to Afghanistan

1695. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all types of aid and assistance given to Afghanistan for its reconstruction;

(b) the terms and conditions of such an assistance;

(c) whether India is involved in any manner in Afghanistan's political process and its reconstruction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) India is committed to providing and has provided extensive humanitarian, project and financial assistance to Afghanistan. Government has announced a financial commitment of US$ 100 million for reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in Afghanistan. Out of this, on 10th July, 2002, the government transferred a sum of US$ 10 million into the account of Afghan government as budget subsidy. In addition, during the visit of H.E. Mr Hamid Karzai, Chairman of then Afghan Interim Administration to India in February this year, Prime Minister had announced an assistance of US$ 10 million for various project related assistance to Afghanistan. Some of the major projects that have been implemented include supply of medical stores and medical services; artificial limbs center in Kabul; gifting of 50 buses to the Afghan government; training of Afghan diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi; deputation of English Language teachers to Afghanistan; computerization of Afghan Foreign Ministry; setting up of computer training center in Kabul, and training of Afghan Police Officers and cadets in India. Projects under consideration include in the fields of Water and Power, Agriculture, Education, Information and Broadcasting and Road Construction.

Government is also in the process of finalizing details for handing over of three aircraft from Air India to Ariana Afghan Airlines.

Government has also committed to provide 1 million tones of wheat as food aid.The operationalization of this commitment faced some transit related difficulties. Government is now discussing with the World Food Programme options to operationalize part of this commitment in alternative forms, such as high protein biscuits for school feeding programme.

Government has also been associated with various international efforts aimed at promoting reconstruction, reconsiliation and stability in Afghanistan, including the Tokyo meeting, G-21 meetings, Afghan Support Group meetings, Bonn Process, Emergency Loya Jirga and meetings held in Geneva to discuss rebuilding of Afghan security structures.

Legislation for social security

1696. SHRI M.A. KADAR:
SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact legislation for providing social security to the workers in the organized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cases of non-implementation of Minimum Wage Act by the State Government have come to Government's notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed by Government against those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b)The principal social security schemes, mainly in the organized sector, are already being provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Employees' Provident Fund & the Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(c) to (e)The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of the minimum wages by the Central and State Governments in respect of employments in their respective jurisdictions.